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## Salisbury Parks & Recreation Creates "Kids CARE 4 Critters" Coin Drive to Support Dan Nicholas Petting Zoo

Salisbury, NC\_ April 28, 2006 - The Salisbury Parks & Recreation Department's "After School Program" kicked off a "KIDS CARE 4 Critters" coin drive in late March at the Miller Recreation Center following the devastating aftermath of a fire which engulfed the Dan Nicholas Park Petting Barn and its animal inhabitants. The program offered children lessons in 'experiencing sadness', "being a good citizen" and "helping others in need."

Chipper, the Salisbury Parks & Recreation Squirrel mascot, was on-hand to assist with the coin drive kick-off. Chipper's sadness over the loss of his fellow animals slowly turned to hope and then happiness as he was overcome with joy through the children's outpouring of kindness. With the clinking of the first coins, the youngsters initiated a "Kids CARE 4 Critters" fundraising campaign. City Recreation facilities served as collection points for coins, with children receiving animal stickers and a thank you letter from Chipper for their donations.

Gail Elder White, Salisbury Parks & Recreation Director stated, "No donation is too small and every coin is appreciated. These young ambassadors of good will lead the way in helping our fellow Rowan County Parks & Recreation Department in their time of need."

The Salisbury City and Rowan County Recreation Departments have partnered throughout the years on many programs and events. Elder White adds, "There are truly no City/County lines when it comes to helping each other in a time like this." In addition to the coin drive, after school program participants began creating pictures, to display at the various City collection sites to create awareness and to encourage others to give.

During the Tuesday, April 18th Salisbury City Council Meeting, children from the After-School Program and Parks & Recreation staff, assisted Chipper the Squirrel in presenting a check for \$1,600 to Bobby Pendergrass, Nature Center Supervisor for the Rowan County Parks System. 100% of all funds received were donated to the Rowan County Parks System and earmarked for petting zoo animal replacement. For more information on the "Kids Care 4 Critters" Campaign, please contact Karen Wilkinson, Marketing Manager for Salisbury Parks & Recreation Department at 704-638-2113 or visit the Salisbury Parks & Recreation Department on the web at [www.salisburync.gov/pkrec](http://www.salisburync.gov/pkrec) .

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